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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 CIEP-01 COME-00 EB-04 LAB-01 SIL-01

IO-04 /067 W
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R 211721Z OCT 74
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4961
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY ROME
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AMCONSUL BELFAST
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: UK, ELAB, ICFTU, XH
SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH MRS. MARIE PATTERSON - NEW
TUC CHAIRMAN

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: MRS. MARIE PATTERSON,WHO WAS ELECTED
CHAIRMAN OF THE TUC AT ITS BRIGHTON CONGRESS LAST
SEPTEMBER, DISCUSSED A NUMBER OF KEY ISSUES CONFRONTING
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BRITISH TRADE UNIONS DURING A MEETING WITH A GROUP OF

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LONDON-BASED LABOR ATTACHES. MRS. PATTERSON IS ONE OF THE FOUR MEMBERS OF THE TRANSPORT AND GENERAL WORKERS UNION (TGWU), HEADED BY JACK JONES, WHO ARE ON THE TUC GENERAL COUNCIL. END SUMMARY

2. EEC MEMBERSHIP - THE TUC CHAIRMAN SAID THAT THE TUC WILL INSIST, AT THE VERY LEAST, THAT A REFERENDUM BE PUT BEFORE THE BRITISH ELECTORATE. MRS. PATTERSON, WHO LIKE HER TGWU ASSOCIATES ON THE GENERAL COUNCIL IS AN ANTI-MARKETEER, BELIEVES THAT THE ANTI-MARKET VIEW IS ACTUALLY HARDENING WITHIN THE TUC LEADERSHIP. THERE IS PRACTICALLY NO ONE, SHE SAID, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF ROY GRANTHAM, GENERAL SECRETARY, ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL, EXECUTIVE, CLERICAL AND COMPUTER STAFF (APEX), WHO ARTI-CULATES THE PRO-MARKET VIEW ON THE GENERAL COUNCIL. ASKED WHETHER SHE FORESAW ANY SOFTENING OF THE ANTI-MARKET POSITION WITHIN THE TRADE UNION MOVEMENT AFTER RENEGOTIATIONS, THE TUC CHAIRMAN REPLIED THAT IT "WOULD REQUIRE A REALLY MASSIVE RENEGOTIATION" TO BRING ABOUT ANY CHANGE. THERE WERE, SHE NOTED, VERY DEEP-SEATED ANTAGONISMS TO THE COMMUNITY OF HISTORICAL, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC ORIGIN, BUT TGWU MEMBERS ARE OFTEN MOST DIS-TURBED BY THOSE THINGS WHICH HAVE A DIRECT IMPACT ON THEIR JOBS, EG, EC REGULATIONS DESIGNED TO PLACE TACHO-METERS IN LORRIES. MRS. PATTERSON SAID THAT THE TUC WILL WAIT UNTIL RENEGOTIATION IS COMPLETED BEFORE IT MAKES ITS DECISION, BUT SHE EXPECTS INDIVIDUAL UNIONS TO MOUNT A STRONG ANTI-MARKET CAMPAIGN WHEN THE PROCESS OF RENEGOTI-ATION IS COMPLETED. (THERE ARE THOSE WHO ARE HOPEFUL THAT JACK JONES MAY MODERATE HIS ANTI-MARKET POSITION, AND IN THE PROCESS HELP MOVE THE TUC TOWARD A MORE POSITIVE POSITION WITH REGARD TO THE EC. THERE APPEARS TO BE LITTLE LIKELIHOOD THAT JONES WILL MAKE SUCH A VOLTE -FACE, HOWEVER.)

3. THE SOCIAL CONTRACT - MRS. PATTERSON SAID SHE HAD CONFIDENCE THE SOCIAL CONTRACT WOULD WORK. APART FROM AGREEMENTS GOVERNING EXCEPTIONAL SITUATIONS, PARTICULARLY THOSE DEALING WITH PRODUCTIVITY INCENTIVES, WAGE RESTRUC-TURING AND OTHER SPECIAL ISSUES, THE RANGE OF WAGE
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INCREASES WOULD BE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD OF 15 TO 20 PER-CENT. CITING JONES' SPEECH IN SCOTLAND (SEPTEL), MRS. PATTERSON SAID THE TEST OF JONES' CALL FOR MODERATION WILL BE MADE AT THE PLANT LEVEL, BUT SHE IS CONFIDENT THAT TRADE UNIONISTS WERE "REALISTS" WHO ARE WELL AWARE THEY CANNOT DRIVE EMPLOYERS OUT OF BUSINESS. SHE REI-TERATED JONES' VIEW THAT THE SOCIAL CONTRACT TRANSCENDED WAGES AND INCLUDED A WHOLE RANGE OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC

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ISSUES. ANOTHER TEST OF THE GOVERNMENT'S HEWING TO THE CONTRACT, SHE SAID, WILL COME WHEN THE NOVEMBER BUDGET WAS UNVEILED. THE GOVERNMENT'S ABILITY TO KEEP DOWN UNEMPLOYMENT WILL BE CRITICAL, SHE ADDED, BUT SHE WOULD NOT GIVE ANY FIGURE FOR AN "ACCEPTABLE" LEVEL OF UNEMPLOYMENT. MRS. PATTERSON MADE IT CLEAR THAT GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TUC AND THE GOVERNMENT WAS NOT MERELY A FOREGONE CONCLUSION, BUT DEPENDED ON HOW THE GOVERNMENT BEHAVED ON ISSUES OF CENTRAL IMPORTANCE TO THE TRADE UNIONS.

4. BAILING OUT INDUSTRY - MRS. PATTERSON WAS NOT OPPOSED TO THE GOVERNMENT'S ASSISTANCE TO INDUSTRY - BUT SHE SAID "THIS TIME, THE GOVERNMENT MUST HAVE A SAY IN WHAT IS

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USIA-06 OMB-01 CIEP-01 COME-00 EB-04 LAB-01 SIL-01

IO-04 /067 W

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R 211721Z OCT 74
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4962
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
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DONE WITH SUCH ASSISTANCE." SHE SAID THAT THE GOVERN-
MENT MUST DO SOMETHING TO PREVENT HAWKER-SIDDELEY FROM
CARRYING OUT ITS PLANS TO DISCONTINUE PRODUCTION OF THE
HS-146, WITH THE CONSEQUENT LOSS OF JOBS. HOWEVER'
SOMEWHAT SURPRISINGLY, SHE WAS LESS CONCERNED ABOUT THE
FATE OF BRITISH CALEDONIAN, WHICH LAID OFF HUNDREDS
OF MEMBERS OF THE TGWU AS A RESULT OF A CUT IN ROUTES,
NOTING THAT THERE ALREADY EXISTED A NATIONAIIZED AIRLINE.
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(SHE APPARENTLY SUPPORTS THE VIEW OF SOME LABOR PARTY
LEADERS THAT A SECOND, AND COMMERCIAL, AIRLINE WAS UN-
NECESSARY.)

5. RACE RELATIONS - MRS. PATTERSON READILY ACKNOWLEDGED
THAT THE TUC HAS BEEN SLOW IN FORMULATING A DYNAMIC,
PROGRESSIVE, RACE RELATIONS POLICY. SHE EXPECTS THIS TO
CHANGE HOWEVER, AND ONE OF THE FIRST ITEMS OF BUSINESS
FOR THE TUC WILL BE TO TAKE RACE RELATIONS OUT OF THE
INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT OF THE TUC AND MAKE IT A
SEPARATE CATEGORY UNDER DIRECTION OF A TOP OFFICIAL.
SHE WAS VERY UPSET ABOUT A RECENT DECISION IN THE HOUSE
OF LORDS WHICH STATED THAT WORKINGMEN'S CLUBS WERE WITHIN
THEIR RIGHTS IN EXCLUDING NON-WHITES' SHE EXPECTS
PARLIAMENT TO OVER-RIDE THIS DECISION IN THE FORM OF
NEW LEGISLATION. MRS. PATTERSON READILY AGREED THAT AS
TIME WENT ON RACE RELATIONS PROBLEMS IN INDUSTRY WOULD
INTENSIFY.

6. ETUC AND THE CGT - THE TUC, SHE SAID, WOULD
NOT PRESS FOR ADMITTANCE OF THE FRENCH CGT "AT THIS
POINT" IN VIEW OF THE ADAMANT OPPOSITION OF THE FRENCH
FORCE OUVRIERE. SHE BELIEVES THAT IT -- AND IN FACT ALL
EUROPEAN UNIONS, INCLUDING THOSE FROM EASTERN EUROPE --
SHOULD EVENTUALLY PARTICIPATE IN THE ETUC. (ALLEN
HARGREAVES TUC INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY, TOLD US THAT THE
TUC WILL SIMPLY URGE CONTINUED TALKS WITH THE CGT RATHER
THAN ADMITTANCE NOW - WHEN THE ISSUE COMES BEFORE THE
ETUC EXECUTIVE ON OCT. 25 IN BRUSSELS.)

7. EAST-WEST RELATIONS - SHE SAID THE EAST-WEST TRADE
UNION CONFERENCE, SCHEDULED FEBRUARY 28-MARCH J1IN

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GENEVA, WILL CONCENTRATE ON THE RELATIVELY NEUTRAL SUBJEC
OF SAFETY. IN HER VIEW, EASTERN EUROPEAN AND WESTERN
EUROPEAN TRADE UNIONS HAD NOT YET REACHED A STAGE WHERE
THEY COULD MEANINGFULLY DISCUSS MORE HIGHLY CHARGED
ISSUES WHICH MIGHT HAVE POLITICAL CONTENT. (ALLEN
HARGREAVES, HOWEVER, INDICATED TO US THAT HE AND BORIS
AVERYANOV, THE AUCCTU INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT HEAD,
ARE CONSIDERING A SOMEWHAT MORE MEATY ISSUE - LABOR
EDUCATION - FOR THE 1976 MEETING.) MRS. PATTERSON SAID
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THAT BI-LATERAL CONTACTS BETWEEN THE TUC AND THE EASTERN
EUROPE WERE CONTINUING; THE MOST RECENT
HAVING BEEN WITH BULGARIA AND THE SOVIET UNION.
(HARGREAVES TOLD US THAT HE EXPECTED A. SHELEPIN, THE
HEAD OF THE AUCCTU TO VISIT THE UK NEXT YEAR.)

8. BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE: MRS. PATTERSON - THE FIFTH WOMAN
TO BECOME TUC CHAIRMAN - WILL HOLD THIS LARGELY HONORABLE
POST UNTIL THE NEXT TUC CONGRESS. SHE WAS BORN IN
MANCHESTER IN 1934, HAS A DEGREE FROM LONDON'S BEDFORD
COLLEGE AND A DIPLOMA IN SOCIOLOGY. SHE HAS SERVED AS
THE TGWU'S NATIONAL WOMAN OFFICER FROM 1962 AND IS A
MEMBER OF VARIOUS COMMITTEES DEALING WITH WAGES, FAMILY
PROBLEMS, HANDICAPPED, AND WOMEN'S CONCERNS. SHE ALSO
SERVES AS CHAIRMAN OF THE TUC WOMEN'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE
AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE. SHE APPEARS TO BE A
VERY STAUNCH JONES' "LOYALIST." HER MANNER IS INTENSE,
BUT PLEASANT. SHE IS HIGHLY ARTICULATE IN PRIVATE
DISCUSSION AND IS ALSO AN EXCELLENT PLATFORM SPEAKER.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TRADE ORGANIZATIONS, MEETINGS, MEETING PROCEEDINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974LONDON13695
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740299-0639
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741031/aaaaazzb.tel
Line Count: 259
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 APR 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <06-Aug-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONVERSATION WITH MRS. MARIE PATTERSON - NEW TUC CHAIRMAN
TAGS: ELAB, UK, XH, ICFTU, (PATTERSON, MARIE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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